

From Imperial to Feudal Japan

Unlike mainland Asian civilizations, Japan was rarely threatened by invaders. However, it was influenced by neighboring cultures.

- Japan's religion, written language, and government were based on ideas from China and Korea.
- Strong emperors ruled early Japan. Over time, civil wars divided Japan into tiny kingdoms with their own rulers.
- As internal conflict decreased, a more unified Japan increased trade with neighboring regions.



Japanese Feudal Structure, 1467-1867

- A** Conflicts between land-owning families weakened the emperor's political power. By 1192 **shoguns** (military commanders) took over as the true rulers of Japan.

- B** After years of civil war, a new social structure emerged in Japan. Local military leaders, called daimyo, challenged the power of the shoguns.

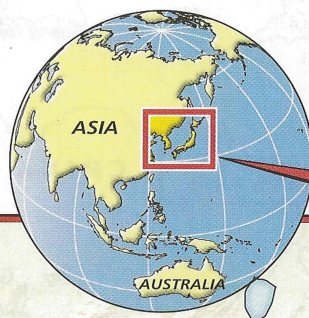
Ruling Families of Japan

552-1300

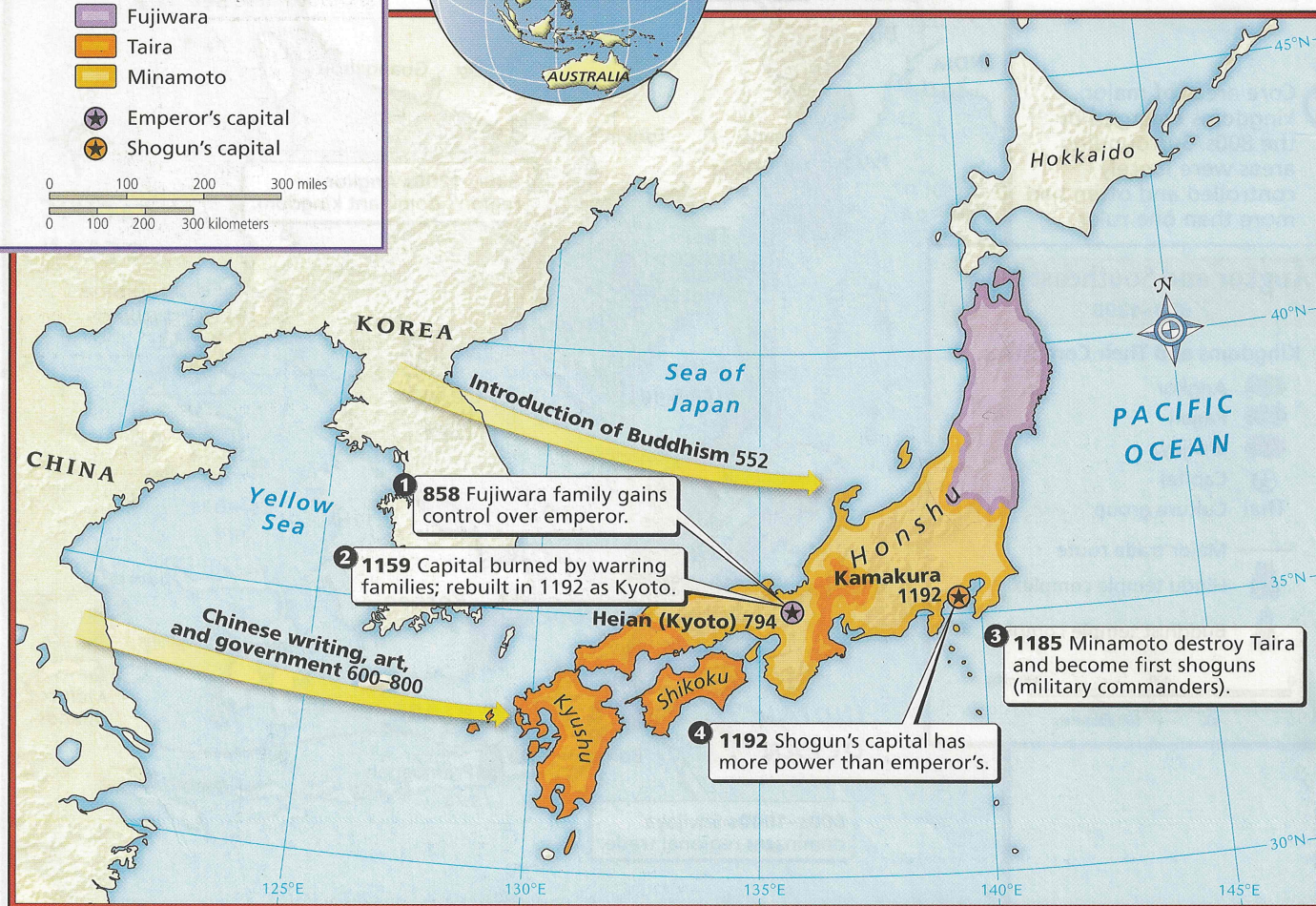
Main Land-owning Families, 1183

- Fujiwara
- Taira
- Minamoto
- Emperor's capital
- Shogun's capital

0 100 200 300 miles
0 100 200 300 kilometers



Area shown in map A

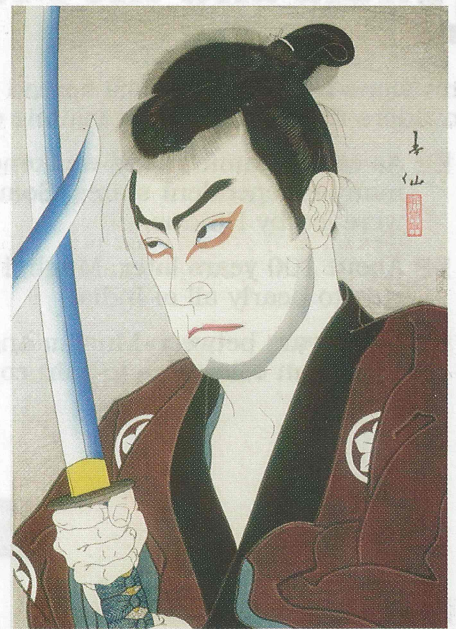




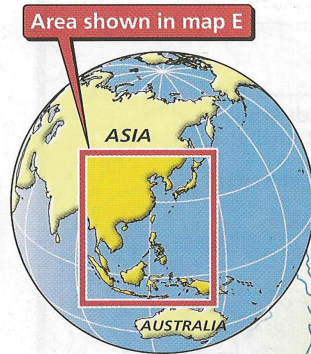
Top 10 Cities, 900

Rank	City (Modern Country)	Population
1	Baghdad (Iraq)	900,000
2	Changan (China)	500,000
3	Constantinople (Turkey)	300,000
4	Kyoto (Japan)	200,000
5	Cordoba (Spain)	200,000
6	Alexandria (Egypt)	175,000
7	Luoyang (China)	150,000
8	Fustat (Egypt)	150,000
9	Manyakheta (India)	100,000
10	Kairwan (Tunisia)	100,000

C Kyoto was the imperial, or the emperor's, capital. Strong imperial power made Kyoto one of the world's great cities.



D Samurai followed a strict honor code called **bushido**, or "way of the warrior." They valued honesty, courage, and fighting skills.



Area shown in map E

E In the late 1500s legal and illegal Japanese trade increased in East and Southeast Asia. About ten thousand Japanese lived outside of Japan, some as traders.

